

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-31 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following claims:

--32. A method for (a) stimulating the phosphorylation of a tyrosine kinase domain of a Flt4 receptor in vivo or (b) treating trauma affecting the vascular endothelium of a mammal suffering from said trauma or (c) treating a dysfunctional state in a mammal characterized by lack of activation of a receptor for VEGF-related protein (VRP),

comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof, an effective amount of a biologically active human VRP containing at least 265 amino acids, wherein the VRP contacts an extracellular domain of a Flt4 receptor.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein

the VRP contains 265 to about 450 amino acids;

the VRP contains about 300-450 amino acids;

the VRP contains about 350-450 amino acids;

the VRP contains about 399-419 amino acids;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues +1 through 29, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues +1 through 137, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues -20 through 29, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues -20 through 137, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence of at least residues +1 through 29, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues +1 through 137, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues -20 through 29, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence having at least residues -20 through 137, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises an amino acid sequence shown as residues -20 through 399, inclusive, or residues 1 through 399, inclusive, of Figure 1;

the VRP comprises a sequence shown as -20 through 399, inclusive, of Figure 1; or

the VRP comprises a sequence shown as 1 through 399, inclusive, of Figure 1.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the VRP binds to a Flt4 receptor, but does not bind to a Flt1 or a Flk1 receptor.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein the VRP binds to and stimulates phosphorylation of a Flt4 receptor, but does not bind to and stimulate phosphorylation of a Flt1 or a Flk1 receptor.

36. A method for stimulating the phosphorylation of a tyrosine kinase domain of a Flt4 receptor in vitro, comprising contacting a Flt4 receptor with an effective amount of a biologically active human VEGF-related protein (VRP) containing at least 265 amino acids.